

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ACTS 2:1-4

Pastor Daniel Flynn

The title this morning is based on a fact, *not a date!* **Happy Birthday to the church**, for this is where everything began for the church. Note I am not talking about Shadow Mountain specifically, no, we are talking about the church that is the universal church of Jesus! Her strength, power, wisdom, and direction began here in our text today.

2 “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested^[a] on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The first is really amazing – It changed ‘THEIR’ lives in a moment... and it is still changing lives in a moment today.

Remember Jesus’ order to them... Acts 1:4-5, “And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

They are waiting on the promise, they are in one accord praying. They are displaying what the church ‘should’ be, even today.

They had been in Jerusalem, dutifully waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift they really could not conceive of. What was the Holy Spirit? What would it do to them? What would it mean to have the Holy Spirit?

They were gathered in Jerusalem to wait for this gift, yet they weren’t quite sure what this gift was all about, nor what to do with the gift when they received it

As with many of the teachings of Jesus, they still weren’t sure what Jesus was talking about. Still later, Jesus told them through the Holy Spirit, they would receive POWER, a supernatural power as the Spirit would lead them.

Let's follow the events of the day of Pentecost. They were all together in one place, and...

1. **They heard a sound like the blowing of a violent wind**, certainly an experience with which all of us in northern Nevada can identify!!!
 - a.) **The word for wind is pneuma**, John 3:7
 - b.) **Think about the temple in the Old Testament**
 - c.) **Now, let's dial it back a little bit!** - the text said it was the 'sound' LIKE the blowing of a violent wind!
2. **This entire experience was highly symbolic.** Fire is certainly fascinating.
3. **Then there is the third physical phenomenon experienced on the Day of Pentecost**, the usage of different languages.
 - a.) First, the use of the word *dialiktos* can only refer to a language or dialect.
 - b.) Second, the paragraph that follows (Vs. 5-12) specifically emphasizes the fact that people of different languages understood the message of the Christians in their own language.
 - c.) When people filled with the Holy Spirit proclaim the gospel, a supernatural ministry *always* takes place. When the hearers respond, a miracle of understanding certainly follows.
4. **Let's sum up this extraordinary event...**
 - a. I wonder if the disciples had any more idea what to do with a gift like this fire than we do?
 - b. The fire was exactly as advertised. It proved to be a COMFORTER, an ENCOURAGER, an EXHORTER, a TEACHER.
 - c. Peter probably did not understand it..
 - d. It is still the Lord's birthday gift to the church. Unfortunately, we often treat it as we would one of the horrible ties, smelly perfumes or ugly pictures we get as unwanted gifts! We don't know what to do with it, and, quite honestly, we seem to live as if we would just as soon not have it.

- e. I suspect we're afraid of it. Sometimes that scares us. . . doesn't it? After all, what might God call us to do if we embrace such a gift as the Holy Spirit?

Concl.

Do we want that kind of power here? Or are we afraid of it? Do we want the fire of Pentecost to burn in Douglas County? Or are we worried that it might ask us to do more than we want to give and disrupt our comfortable lives?

Would we be willing to give our time?

Would be willing to speak His Word, even if others didn't like it?

Would we be willing to risk our lives and livelihoods?

Would we be willing to give more financially?

Lots of questions which very well may change us . . .

Pastor Chris is out of town this coming week for a wedding. Pastor Daniel is out of town this coming week for some extensive dental work. If you have a need this week, (May 26-31) please reach out to our Elders:

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